

Matilde Arcangeli

When we landed in Elazig it was night, everyone was tired, but I will never forget the smiles on the Turkish guys' faces. In that moment every doubt or fear despaired. Despite the late hour at home with a kind family the typical Turkish tea was waiting me. At the first time it was difficult, the school is different from ours, the flag-raising ceremony was shocking and beautiful at the same time, they have longest break in two hours, the canteen, they stay at school until 3 pm. The difference between the languages was strong, it was difficult to communicate, but we found a solution and while having fun I learned Turkish words and they learned Italian ones. We visited a lot of amazing places, the river of Tigris and Euphrates, the city of Diyarbakir, everywhere endless landscapes. In a week I fall in love with the culture, the language and the population of Turkey. It was an experience that if it is possible I will repeat.

Linda Ugolini

My name is Linda, I'm from Italy, and I attended Turkish's mobility in Elazig for the project "You're Nature You're Future" from 21 to 27 April 2024. The first day we had various activities and we knew other students: I found myself very well and enjoyed discovering a different culture from mine. I tasted different dishes and learned some Turkish words, as well as I improved my English. Local students and teachers were all very hospitable and kind: we visited Elazig and the town Diyarbakir. I really enjoyed the places we visited and the landscapes we crossed to reach them. I will always be grateful for this experience.

Alice Fraternali

When we arrived in Turkey, we had a few hours before our connecting flight, so we decided to explore Istanbul. It was a wonderful experience, as Istanbul is an incredibly vibrant city with a rich history and culture. After our brief visit, we were welcomed by our host families in Elazig, where we spent the rest of our time engaging in family activities, school events, and meeting students from different parts of the world. The warm reception we received from the local community and Turkish students was perhaps the most beautiful part of the entire experience. The kindness of the students in Elazig was overwhelming; they treated us like family and made us feel at home despite being so far away from our own. Their friendliness and hospitality were truly heartwarming, and it made our stay unforgettable. Adapting to a new culture and language was initially a challenge, but it wasn't difficult to overcome, thanks to the incredible hospitality and the helpfulness of our host families. They were always ready to guide us and make us feel comfortable in a country that was so different from our own. Although Turkey was far from home, the experience helped us grow stronger and taught us more about the beauty of the world and the value of intercultural exchange. One of the most noticeable

differences between Turkey and Italy was the educational system. In Turkey, students have the option to choose their classes, and each subject has a dedicated classroom. This is quite different from Italy, where students typically stay in the same classroom for most of their lessons. Additionally, Turkish schools place a great emphasis on the arts, and we were amazed by the beautiful paintings created by the students. Overall, our experience in Turkey was incredibly enriching. The welcoming atmosphere, the opportunity to experience a different culture, and the chance to learn about the educational system were all highlights of our stay. Places we visited were: The Euphrates River, The Tigris River, Diyarbakir, the museum of Ataturk, with activities and time spent together. We left Turkey with a greater understanding of the world and the connections we share with people from all corners of the globe.

Aurora Colocci

The experience in Turkey allowed us to carry out new activities at the Elâzığ Anadolu Lisesi High School in the morning followed by cultural visits in the afternoon. After two long flights, we got to Elazig on the evening of April 21st, and we were welcomed by our host families, which brought us home. On Monday, our first day, we got to know the school, the teachers and the other participants involved in the Erasmus + project from Romania, Greece and Lithuania. Both students and teachers welcomed us warmly and each group exposed his project about food waste in a school's room. It was very interesting to discover how we all worked on the same topic but in different ways. Afterwards, we attended a lecture by the mayor of the city of Elâzığ to present the Turkish mobility of the Erasmus+ project. We had to face some difficulties, above all because of the language barriers, but with time we managed to communicate quite well, and I remember spending a lot of time with all the people involved, having a lot of fun. The differences between the Turkish and Italian school systems mainly concerns structure, grading and length of instruction. For example, in Turkey, education is obligatory for 12 years and students take the YKS (Higher Education Institutions Exam) after high school to determine university admission. In Italy, obligatory education lasts for 10 years and students must pass the "maturità" exam at the end of high school to graduate and have access to university. Another distinction can be found in the grading systems: Turkey uses a 100-point scale, while Italy uses a 10-point scale for secondary school grades and a 30-point scale for university grades. In addition, Italian high schools are divided by the address of studies: we can find linguistic, technical, scientific or artistic high schools and many others, and in every one of these the emphasis is put on specific subjects. In the mornings, we attended an art class and tried our hand on painting, we had the opportunity to cook some Italian dishes and, at the same time, to taste dishes made by other participants in the project. Another day saw us planting seeds in the school's garden and finally, during

our last morning there before departure we did a report on the week which had just passed. During the afternoons, activities took place outside schools, and we were able to visit some important sites, such as Diyarbakir, the Tigris River, museums such as the Ataturk Musezi, Harput and the Euphrates river.